that in his material nearly every second person had parasites in the appendix. The parasites were present in a much higher percentage of women than men. The greatest frequency of infection occurred between the ages of eleven and thirty. The types of parasites varied, the oxyuris being most frequent. Inflammation was present only in a portion of the cases containing parasites, and in those instances where the reaction was present it appeared localized to the immediate vicinity of the worm. In the 23 specimens which were obtained at postmortem, 6 showed the presence of worms. He believes that the worms are not directly or indirectly the cause of appendicitis. He believes, however, that the presence of the worm within the appendix may give rise to symptoms simulating clinical appendicitis.

HYGIENE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

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American Mortality Statistics and Mills.—Reincke Phenomenon.—Fink (*Jour. Infect. Dis.*, July, 1917, p. 62) has tabulated the detailed mortality statistics of Chicago, Cincinnati, Columbus, Philadelphia, and Pittsburgh for a definite period before and after purification of their water supplies. Similar figures for New York City and Boston, Mass., covering the same years have served as controls. In addition to a comparison of the crude death-rates with the death-rates from typhoid fever, malarial fever and diarrhea and enteritis, the death-rates of those diseases known to be sequelæ of typhoid fever have been especially studied. Curves of the death-rates from pulmonary tuberculosis, pneumonia, nephritis and heart disease have also been plotted to see whether during the three years immediately following years of high typhoid mortality there could be demonstrated a sudden rise in mortality from these diseases, a possibility which the data published by Dublin would seem to suggest. No striking evidence has been found that the Mills-Reincke phenomenon and Hazen's theorem apply to these cities when compared with control cities. The figures indicate a great variation among the cities studied including the controls. There is, therefore, a lack of uniformity in the appearance of the Mills-Reincke phenomenon and Hazen's theorem, since some of the cities thus far studied apparently show an increase, while others show a reduction in general death-rates following improvement in water supply. This is to be expected because of the numerous factors affecting the general and specific death-rates. The total death-rate shows a tendency to decline in all the cities studied. This is also true of the death-rates from pulmonary tuberculosis, but is more marked in the control cities. The death-rates from pneumonia are quite irregular, but with a general downward tendency, except in Pittsburgh. The death-rates from nephritis show a gradual rise, except in one of the control cities, New York. No changes appear which are unique for the cities with improved water supplies. The curve for heart disease also shows a decline in New York, while in the other cities there is a rise. Considering the diseases that are sequelæ of typhoid fever as a whole, there is a general tendency toward an increase, but this is not peculiar to the cities which have had excessive typhoid fever rates. There can be no doubt that an impure water supply may be and, in general, is accompanied by a high general death-rate. Because of the multiplicity of factors involved, it is impossible to determine the exact relation between the two by a study of the general mortality statistics. Some cities will of necessity show a decrease, while others may even exhibit an apparent increase in mortality. That a high typhoid incidence tends to increase the number of deaths from the sequelæ of typhoid fever must also be true. But the large number of other factors tending to produce the same effect makes the problem very complicated, and one that probably cannot be solved by any comparison of mortality statistics.

Studies upon the Common House-fly (Musca Domestica, Linn).—Scott (*Jour. Med. Research*, September, 1917, p. 121) made studies of the normal or "wild" Musca domestica in the District of Columbia since the autumn of 1913, and concludes that the common house-fly may carry pathogenic bacteria upon the surface of the body, legs, wings, and proboscides, mechanically, or they may carry infectious organisms in the intestinal tract and deposit them on foodstuffs, either in the "vomit spots" or in fecal deposits. The bacterial flora carried by the house-fly varies directly with the sanitation of the area in which the fly is captured, the most heavily polluted flies coming from the slum districts. House-flies show seasonal variation in the number of bacteria as well as in the species of bacteria. The seasonal variation shows the greatest bacterial flora is coincident with the summer months, and the occurrence of intestinal complaints of summer and early autumn. The isolation of members of the colon-typhoid-dysentery group of bacilli from numbers of flies indicates that the house-fly has the power of carrying the closely allied pathogens, typhoid and dysentery. The finding of virulent pyogenic cocci indicates the possibility of the common house-fly being a factor in the dissemination of the suppurative processes. The results of his experiments indicate that typhoid fever in the District of Columbia, under normal conditions, is not referable to the agency of the house-fly. The heavy bacterial flora and the presence of the intestinal group of bacteria on the house-fly presents a potent argument for the careful protection of foodstuffs from the access of flies, and furnishes a strong plea for the abolition of the breeding places of Musca domestica.

Epidemiology of Lobar Pneumonia.—Stillman (*Jour. Exp. Med.*, October, 1917) reports that the results of his work confirm the previous observations of Dochez and Avery on the occurrence of healthy